

W₂ASACT Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2008
Department of Commerce
Helena, MT

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED

Todd Teegarden	DEQ/SRF	Mark Smith	DEQ/SRF
Jim Edgcomb	MDOC/TSEP	Anna Miller	DNRC
Bob Fischer	DNRC	Jay Sinnott	EPA
Nancy Geary	DEQ/SRF	Pam Smith	DNRC/RRGL
Jennifer Olson	MDOC/CDBG	Alice Stanley	DNRC
Debra Demarius	MDOC/TSEP	Nick Rich	MDOC/CDBG-ED
Kim Hayes	MDOC/TSEP	Louise Welsh	BOI
Rick Duncan	DNRC	Monica Pokorny	DNRC
		Ellen Hanpa	MDOC/Coal Board

Call to Order, Sign-in Sheet, Agenda Changes

The scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W₂ASACT) was called to order at 10:10 am, February 12, 2008 by Todd Teegarden, Chair. Agendas and minutes of the last meeting were made available to those in attendance. Todd thanked Ellen Hanpa for her past service with minutes and meeting set up. It was agreed that future meetings would be shortened to finish up by approximately 12:00 or 12:30. They could go longer, depending on the content of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 11, 2007 were accepted as presented.

Items for Review and Discussion

A copy of the committees was handed out. The WORKSHOP COMMITTEE was updated by replacing Judy Broadwater (RD) with Steve Troendle. The UNIFORM APPLICATION COMMITTEE was altered by replacing Judy Broadwater with Steve Troendle and adding Paul LaVigne (WPCSRF). The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE was disbanded, as its work was completed. STANDARD DOCUMENTS was left the same, while Judy Broadwater was removed from the W₂ASACT VIDEO COMMITTEE. Todd Teegarden (DEQ/SRF) replaced Mark Smith on the INTERNET WEBSITE COMMITTEE, which Pam Smith indicated was waiting on an update to the DNRC site. Judy Broadwater was removed from the SUMMER PICNIC group.

Updates from Subcommittees

Uniform Application – Nothing

Standard Documents – Todd Teegarden read an e-mail from Karen Sanchez regarding updating the 2002 edition of the EJCD Standard Documents, which are 5 or 6 years old. The committee will meet to discuss the changes.

Workshops – There will be infrastructure workshops in Great Falls next week, in Missoula on March 5th, and Billings on March 11th. DOC (CDBG and TSEP) will hold another workshop in Wolf Point on Thursday March 13th. CDBG will be holding workshops in these locations the day before these meetings. Due to cultural differences, special workshops may be scheduled for this fall to increase direct tribal communication and to make W₂ASACT more accessible to the tribes.

Website – Pam will make changes to the Web

Updates on Ongoing Topics

Emergency Projects – The Brockton project is finished and they have received their money.

Tribal Issues – None

Regional Water Projects – Rick Duncan reviewed the following projects:

Fort Peck - Dry Prairie

Dry Prairie's plans to construct water mains in southern Valley County remain on hold. The City of Glasgow's previous indication that they would supply water for the first phase of this project now appears to have been premature, and there will be a delay of an unknown length of time. The Dry Prairie Board and its engineers requested some clarifications and updates on old information from Morrison-Maierle.

Rocky Boy – North Central

Hill County Water District is proceeding with construction activities on its plan to upgrade and utilize its Marias River area infiltration gallery and intake as an interim source. An agreement with DEQ stipulated that they must abandon use of the Fresno Reservoir source. North Central Regional Water Authority is working on its "Interim Service Scenarios" to identify those communities/systems in greatest need of interim solutions to their drinking water supply problems.

The Musselshell-Judith Rural Water Supply

They are applying for money from the Federal Government again for planning purposes, after unsuccessful attempts the past two years. There have been some concerns expressed by some watershed groups in the area about the demand for water from the Madison formation, but there does not appear to be a major impact expected.

A private well has been drilled to the Madison formation that the Water Authority may attempt to acquire. If the well can be financed, it could supplement the well in Utica. This one is at a similar depth, so testing of hydrological principles should also be similar.

Dry-Redwater

There is a beneficial use with water from Fort Peck but they have no water rights, so they must start the water rights process and apply with the Glasgow office. They will need to comply with the Federal Rural Water Act.

The Board approved the signing of a contract with Golden Associates for the environmental work on the intake to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP), and from the WTP to the Town of Circle.

The Bureau of Reclamation is only providing information, not money, prior to any new authorizations from Congress.

W₂ASACT Project Tracking Sheet - Jim Edgcomb reported that he has received updates for the tracking sheet from almost everyone. Those who have not sent your updates to him, please do so as soon as possible at jedgcomb@mt.gov. He would like to see an expanded Project Tracking Sheet to give more project information. He asked that this topic be added to the next meeting agenda.

Army Corps of Engineers – Sect. 595 Program (WRDA) Projects – Pam Smith

Pam handed out the list entitled *2007 Projects Funded*. She said it should say 2008, rather than 2007.

There are new applications available online for 2008 applicants.

STAG project updates – Todd Teegarden

Three projects awarded in 2007: Conrad wastewater, Crow Agency wastewater and the City of Helena's drinking water projects.

The Rattlesnake project lawsuits have been dismissed, so the STAG money is available to be applied for, because the funds had been put on hold. The environmental review of the full project has been completed so project funds can be awarded by EPA.

Program/Project Updates

DWSRF The Project Priority List will be started in April or May.

CDBG - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Don't fund water or wastewater systems, but do provide services related to those systems. Many projects being constructed are involved with economic development.

CDBG Partially funded the past 2 years?
Ellen is starting full time in this program soon.
Workshop next week in Great Falls.

TSEP 2009 Guidelines are final and will be available on the website next week. Fully staffed now, with new Program Assistant, Penny Clark, and Engineer, Kate Miller from DEQ, who will start work on Tuesday. Now technical review of applications can be done in-house instead of using consultants.

DNRC Projects in process are: Upper-Lower River Road completed, Bigfork loan closed, Logan Landfill and Kalispell in progress, and Manhattan continues. May 15th is the deadline for DNRC grant funding.

EPA East Glacier needs to finish water project by summer.

INTERCAP – Interest rate will be established for 2008 in the next couple weeks.

Other Issues

Should the meetings be held quarterly or bi-monthly? The consensus was to keep the meetings bi-monthly, but shorten them unless there is a relevant guest speaker or some reason for the meetings to go longer.

Logistics of next meeting

The next meeting will be April 8, 2008. Dept. of Commerce, Board of Investments, will host the meeting; to be held at 2401 Colonial Drive, (3rd Floor –large conference room) in Helena, MT.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 pm.